

What can you do?

Here are some possible actions the community can take toward changing the management of the Hartford Landfill.

Gather Information from many resources including:

- Local environmental and health officials
Rita Kornblum
City of Hartford Health Department
(860) 547-1426 ext: 7188
- National environmental and public interest organizations
Stacey Johnson, Hartford City Program Manager
U.S. EPA New England, Urban Environmental Initiative
(617) 918-1552
Hartford Health Department, Lead Poisoning Prevention and Education; Phone: (860) 543-8817, Fax: (860)-722-6719
- Local citizen and environmental groups
Healthy Hartford is a television program produced by the Hartford Health Department on Channel 21 that focuses on topics of health and the environment. The program schedule can be found at:
<http://www.hartford.gov/government/channel21/Channel21ProgramSchedule.htm>
- The library
Hartford Public Library, 500 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103,
(860) 543-8628

For more information, go to www.healthy.hartford.gov

Take Action

- Join a coalition. Greater membership leads to more information, funds and volunteers.

-Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
P.O. Box 2022 Hartford, CT 06145-2022
Phone: (860) 548-1133
Fax: (860) 548-9197

-Hartford Environmental Justice Network
Call Sharon at (860) 548-1133

-ONE/CHANE is a grassroots agency that provides organizing services, advocacy, and development for residents of North Hartford

Larry Charles, Executive Director
2065 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120
Phone: (860) 525-0190
Fax: (860) 522-8266

- Attend public events and community forums.

Forums regarding the landfill:

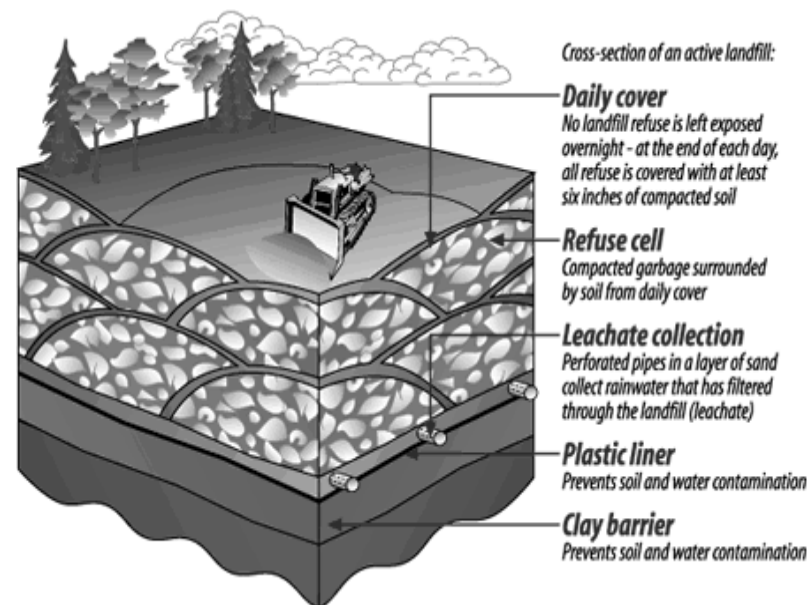
Public Involvement – 3rd week in March

Possible Solutions after Closure – 2nd week in May

Call in TV program – January 12th 7:00 p.m. Channel 21

TALKIN' TRASH

The Hartford Landfill: Effects on Human Health and the Environment



*General diagram of a landfill

December 17, 2004
Trinity College:
Augusta Friendsmith
Jessica Hansen
Eliza Sayward
Robert Stewart

Hartford Landfill Hotline: **1-800-480-7133**
Mid-Connecticut Odor Hotline: **1-800-472-8630**

Does the Hartford Landfill cause health problems in the neighboring communities?

Scientific research indicates that the chemicals emitted by landfills may or may not pose health risks. The following information suggests that exposure to some chemicals can cause serious health problems.

Main Chemicals Produced and Their Potential Health Effects:

In order of severity of health risk

LEACHATE: a toxic mixture of chemicals containing heavy metals such as zinc, sodium, chloride, iron, copper, benzene and lead

- Leachate can contaminate groundwater when a landfill is close to bodies of water, such as the Connecticut River
- Precipitation can cause runoff, which can enter food sources

Possible Health Effects:

- Mice that have been exposed to leachate in labs have experienced death, weight-loss, sluggishness, hair loss, and a loss of appetite
- Individuals exposed to leachate-contaminated water have experienced organ dysfunction, particularly in the liver

LEAD: a hard metal with high rates in bottom ash landfills

- It can be found in houses near landfills in places such as window sills, toys, and other household appliances

Possible Health Effects

- Ash landfills can cause high levels of lead in the blood of neighboring residents, which can induce lead poisoning
- Rats that have been exposed to lead have experienced tissue damage
- Can cause dysfunction of the autonomic and central nervous systems, especially in fetuses and young children
- Can cause anemia
- Can induce neurological problems
- Can damage the digestive system
- Can irritate the lungs, which may lead to many respiratory problems

CADMIUM: a hard metal found in bottom ash landfills

Possible Health Effects:

- Can cause cadmium poisoning which can cause Itai-Itai Disease, which is characterized by dysfunction in the kidneys
- Can cause cancer

MERCURY: a hard metal found in bottom ash landfills

Possible Health Effects:

- Can cause damage to plumbing systems and house fixtures
- Can cause mercury poisoning, which can lead to Minamata Disease, characterized by neurological dysfunction, including sensory loss and tremors

DIOXINS: a family of more than 200 organic chemicals containing chlorine

Possible Health Effects:

- Can cause birth defects and cancer

NICKEL: a hard metal

Possible Health Effects:

- Can cause cancer

METHANE: an odorless, explosive gas

Possible Health Effects:

- Can become explosive when confined
- Contributes to global warming and air pollution